



# Celebrate Arbor Day

ARBOR DAY, the nation's first tree planting holiday, was established 150 years ago. Today, it is observed in all 50 states and in countries around the world. Most Tree Campus Higher Education colleges and universities celebrate Arbor Day through a student-wide tree planting or maintenance event, a tree festival, or a ceremonial tree planting. Here are just a few examples.

## Spelman College

Spelman College students and staff, with assistance from Spelman College Facilities Management and Services, planted 36 trees around campus. Participants learned how to plant trees and the impact these trees will have on the campus landscape in the years to come.

## University of Louisville

University of Louisville's Sustainability Council coordinated the school's Arbor Day celebration, which included a giveaway of free native tree saplings to campus visitors, tree-themed activities with prizes, and smoothies made entirely with tree fruits and nuts, including native pawpaws, peaches and serviceberries harvested on campus.

## IUPUI

To celebrate the school's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, IUPUI teamed up with local Alliance for Community Trees organization Keep Indianapolis Beautiful to plant 50 trees with students, staff, and community volunteers. The trees beautify the campus, provide shade, and contribute to the campus canopy coverage goal.

Visit [arborday.org](http://arborday.org) for additional ideas, tree planting tips, projects, and history.



## ABOUT THE HOLIDAY: ORIGINS OF ARBOR DAY



As pioneers began moving into the Nebraska Territory in the mid-1800s, the lack of trees was felt deeply. Not only did the new residents miss the trees they left behind, but they also lacked windbreaks, fuel, building materials, and shade from the hot sun.

J. Sterling Morton, a Nebraska newspaper editor who later served as Secretary of Agriculture, was one of those early settlers. Morton lobbied the state legislature to create a special holiday dedicated to tree planting, and the first Arbor Day celebration was held on April 10, 1872.

On that inaugural Arbor Day, prizes were offered to counties and individuals for the largest number of properly planted trees. An estimated one million trees were planted throughout the state.

150 years later, Arbor Day's mission is just as compelling and important. People around the world use this holiday as a way to come together, celebrate trees, and teach the younger generation about the need for environmental stewardship.

## TREE FACTS:

- One tree **provides oxygen** for up to four people in one day.
- Forests in the United States **provide drinking water** to more than 180 million people.
- In one year, an acre of trees can **absorb the same amount of carbon** emitted by a car driven up to 8,700 miles.
- Trees properly placed around buildings can **reduce energy bills** by as much as 30 percent.
- Communities with ample tree-life attract more homeowners and professionals and see **property values rise** between 10 and 20 percent.

National Arbor Day is the last Friday in April. For a listing of Arbor Day celebrations by state, visit [arborday.org](http://arborday.org)